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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/726,270	11/30/2000	Rabindranath Dutta	AUS9-2000-0693-US1	5235
7590	08/25/2004		EXAMINER	
Joseph T. Van Leeuwen P.O. Box 81641 Austin, TX 78708-1641			HAMILTON, LALITA M	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3624	
DATE MAILED: 08/25/2004				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/726,270

Applicant(s)

DUTTA, RABINDRANATH

Examiner

Lalita M Hamilton

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: ____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 9-10 and 16-17 are rejected, because "merchant" lacks antecedent basis.

Claims 10 and 17 are rejected for their dependency upon the rejected claims.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

Claims 1-7 and 15-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter.

35 USC 101 requires that in order to be patentable the invention must be a "new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof" (emphasis added).

Claims 1-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed invention is directed to a non-statutory subject matter. Specifically the method claims as presented do not claim a technological basis in the pre-amble and the body of the claim. Without a claimed basis, the claim may be interpreted in an alternative as involving no more than a manipulation of an abstract idea and therefore non-statutory under 35 U.S.C. 101. In contrast, a method claim that includes in the body of the claim structural / functional interrelationship which can only be computer implemented is considered to have a

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technological basis [See Ex parte Bowman, 61 USPQ2d 1669, 1671 (Bd. Pat. App. & Inter. 2001) - used only for content and reasoning since not precedential].

In order to over come the 101 rejection above, the following preamble is suggested:

-A computer implemented method for ---, or something similar. Also, in the body of the claim include structural / functional interrelationship which can only be computer implemented.

Claims 15-20 claim a computer program product. However, the preamble and the body of the claim do not indicate that the program is stored on a medium nor executed on a computer. Appropriate correction is required.

In order to over come the 101 rejection above, the following preamble is suggested:

-computer-readable medium implementing the steps of ---, or something similar. Also, in the body of the claim include structural / functional interrelationship which can only be computer executable.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Thomson (5,121,945).

Thomson discloses a financial data method and processing system comprising receiving customer bank account information, determining a customer due amount for a customer, and creating a preprinted check, the preprinted check including the customer bank account information and the customer due amount (fig.1a-d (all) and col.6, line 45 to col.8, line 63); including a merchant account number on the preprinted check, wherein the merchant account number is an account number provided by the merchant that corresponds to the customer (fig.1a-d (all) and col.6, line 45 to col.8, line 63); preparing a bill corresponding to the customer and sending the bill and the preprinted check to the customer (col.4, lines 14-21); printing a merchant name and address on the preprinted check, wherein the merchant name and address are adapted to appear through an envelope window (col.4, lines 14-21); receiving at least one of a voided customer check, a customer check, a printed form including a bank routing number and bank account number, and an electronic form including a bank routing number and bank account number (fig.1a-d (all) and col.6, line 45 to col.8, line 63); storing the customer bank account information, wherein the receiving further includes reading the stored customer bank account information (fig.1a-d (all) and col.6, line 45 to col.8, line 63); one or more processors, a memory accessible by the processors, printer accessible by the processors, a nonvolatile storage device accessible by the processors, and preprinted check tool, the preprinted check tool including: means for receiving customer bank account information, means for determining a customer due amount for a customer, and means for printing a preprinted check on the printer, the preprinted check including the customer bank account information and the customer due amount (fig.1a-d

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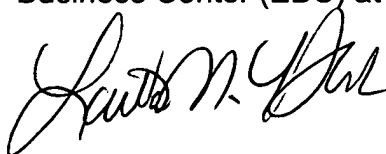
(all) and col.6, line 45 to col.8, line 63); and a computer program product for providing preprinted checks, said computer program product comprising means for receiving customer bank account information, means for determining a customer due amount for a customer, and means for creating a preprinted check, the preprinted check including the customer bank account information and the customer due amount (fig.1a-d (all) and col.6, line 45 to col.8, line 63).

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Lalita M Hamilton whose telephone number is (703) 306-5715. The examiner can normally be reached on Tuesday-Thursday (8:30-4:30).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Vincent Millin can be reached on (703) 308-1065. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lalita M. Hamilton', is written over the printed name 'LMH'.

LMH